

Other Comments:

Rather than responding to the individual questions, I'd like to talk a bit about copyright protection in general. Taken as an isolated issue, the broadcast flag sounds reasonable. However, in the context of other action in the copyright field, it seems more appropriate from my perspective to consider it as a part of a long-standing attempt to defraud USA consumers of their cultural heritage of free communication.

In particular, I'm referring to the Sony Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (popularly referred to as the Mickey Mouse Protection Act) and the Digital Millenium Copyright Act. Those two pieces of legislation have removed rights previously taken for granted by the American public.

I'm particularly concerned by the DMCA because it has been used to terrorize legitimate research in addition to illegally threatening the liberty of foreign nationals.

In this climate, approving the broadcast flag would be an irresponsible sop to large corporate interests at the expense of the American consumer.

I invite the FCC commissioners to read Richard Stallman's "The Right to Read" for where copyright is headed on its current trajectory. It's a frightening vision, one in which Americans would not be able to read their own Constitution without permission. A copy of "The Right to Read" is available at <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/right-to-read.html>

I'll close with this quote from the US Constitution:

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;